

May 29, 2022

Dear Saint Joseph Catholic School Community,

Items in this newsletter: Thoughts for the week; No School; Last Days; MAP Scores; 6th Grade Baccalaureate Mass and Graduation; Awards Day; 5th Grade Candle Mass; Summer Learning; 4th Quarter and Final Report Cards; The Cardinal Newman Corner; School Supplies; VBS Registration; and Local Covid Numbers.

Thoughts for the week: “It is not that I’m so smart; it’s just that I stay with a problem longer” ~ Albert Einstein. **This week and during the summer please encourage your children to learn to stay with a problem and work to solve it without giving up. Make a difference today.**

No School: The school will be closed in observance of Memorial Day tomorrow, Monday, May 30th.

Last Days: The last day of classes for the Class of 2022 will be Wednesday, June 1st. The last day for 4K-5th grades will be Thursday, June 2nd which **will be a noon dismissal day with no Extended Care.**

MAP Scores: Please look for an envelope addressed to the parents of... in your student’s “Monday Folder” which will be sent home on Tuesday, May 31st.

I am so very proud of the students, teachers, and families for our year-end MAP scores. This year we continue to see growth in our students. In ELA each grade scored in the 92nd percentile or higher with three grades scoring in the 99th percentile for achievement. Also in ELA, we had 6 of the 7 grades meet or exceed their targets for ELA growth. For Math, we had four grades score in the 96th percentile or higher with the other grades scoring near the 90th percentile for achievement. Additionally, we had two classes in the 99th percentile in growth and several others that made good gains in Math growth. This success has been based on several things including fantastic teachers, staff, and administration and a strong school-wide commitment to learning that is reinforced at home. This partnership has proven effective and our joint efforts should be applauded!

6th Grade Baccalaureate Mass and Graduation: The Saint Joseph class of 2022 will graduate on Wednesday, June 1st at 6:30. The Baccalaureate Mass and Graduation will be held in the church. It will also be livestreamed on the Saint Joseph church YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/c/StJosephCatholicChurchColumbiaSC>

2021-2022 Awards Day: The faculty and staff will host the Awards Day ceremony on Wednesday, June 1st at 1:30 pm in the gym. The Awards Day program recognizes the class of 2022 as well as a few underclassmen who have earned local, state, or national awards.

5th Grade Candle Mass: Each spring, at the last Mass of the school year, we celebrate the 5th grade Candle Mass. This year the Candle Mass will be celebrated at 8:15 am on Thursday, June 2nd. At this Mass, the students of the Class of 2023 will be inducted as the new leaders of the student body. I would like to invite the parents of the rising 6th-grade class to join us for this special occasion.

Summer Learning: For this year's summer learning, all students (rising 1st – 6th) will be required to complete language arts and math activities. Each grade level will have a packet with information about assignments which will be available on our website [HERE](#) after June 6th. For the language arts component, our teachers have chosen literature that focuses on one of the Principles of Catholic Social Teaching: "Call to Family, Community and Participation". In simple terms, this means *God made us to be part of communities, families and countries, so all people can share and help each other*. We hope that you and your child(ren) can read and discuss the books together as a family. Additionally, we encourage you to be inspired by the literature and find a way to complete a small service activity as a family and remember the words of Pope Francis: "Let us care for one another and let us be loving custodians of creation." You can send pictures of your activities to [Rebecca Seezen](#) to be shared on social media as a part of our summer "Saints in Action" series.

4th Quarter and Final Report Cards: Your child's 4th quarter/final report card will be mailed to you the week of June 6th.

The Cardinal Newman Corner: Congratulations to the Cardinal Newman Class of '22. They earned a record-breaking \$12.4 million in scholarship funding this year, which averages out to more than \$137,000 per student. During the pandemic, Cardinal Newman took all necessary steps to support students academically, physically and mentally...and it paid off. Interested in learning more about the transition to Cardinal Newman once your child is approaching 7th grade? Visit their website at cnhs.org or contact Admissions Director, Michelle Holbrook with questions or to schedule a personalized tour. mholbrook@cnhs.org.

Cardinal Newman is offering its usual selection of athletic camps this summer, but with several camp additions like art, drama and LEGOs! Take a look at the summer camp schedule and register today! <https://www.cnhs.org/apps/form/form.CARNWS.t1ulKsI.1in>

School Supplies: 2022-2023 school supplies are now available at www.schooltoolbox.com. Orders placed before June 12 will ship to the school and be delivered to your classroom for Open House. Orders placed after June 12 will ship to your home. Please see the flyer on our website for more information as well as supply lists by grade level.

Vacation Bible School Registration: Registration is now open for Vacation Bible School! Monumental VBS will be July 11-15 from 9:00 – 12:00. Early bird registration rates are available through June 5: \$30 for one child; a max of \$50 per family. Pricing after June 5: \$35 for one child; max of \$60 per family. Click here to register: <https://vbspro.events/p/events/2428b9>. Volunteers are also needed and can register through the same link. If you have questions, please contact Emily MacLennan at emily@stjosephcolumbia.org.

Local Covid Numbers: We had 1 student or staff member test positive for COVID this week.

It is the little things we do that show how God is in us, with us, and working through us - "Blessed are we". Have a great week!

Sincerely,

Donavan F. Yarnall, Ed. S
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